

TOWN OF ACTON
SIDEWALK COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes of March 9, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Acton Memorial Library Conference Room

Present: Kate Chung, Dana Snyder-Grant, Pam Cochrane, Dick Calandrella, Leslie Hogan, Bettina Abe, Steve Evans.

The March Sidewalk Committee meeting was moved from its usual time of 7pm to 6pm, to minimize overlap with the 7pm Acton 2020 forum on Traffic & Circulation.

Citizen Concerns:

Sonja Heels joined us, interested in any updates regarding a desired sidewalk along Route 111/Massachusetts Avenue connecting Boxborough and West Acton. (an agenda item, following.)

Dick Calandrella spoke as a citizen. He noted that at the most recent FinCom meeting a FinCom member deferred giving his opinion on spending money for a High Street sidewalk because of the potential high cost of construction and whether it was worth the expense. The Sidewalk Committee appreciates the cost of the project, but notes that this is the reason the Sidewalk Committee was created: to prioritize sidewalk construction projects based on sound criteria. ►Kate will ask Pam Harting-Barratt and Corey York if Alexon of Concord is giving \$700,000 for that project.

Procedural Matters:

The February 2011 minutes were approved with, several minor amendments.

► Kate will contact Board of Selectmen and Town Engineering, to obtain the report we have asked for on the Acton Sidewalk funds – how much is available, and from where.

Route 111: West Acton

This proposed sidewalk connecting Boxborough and West Acton along Route 111 (“The Route 111Bike/Pedestrian project”) is **categorized as the highest priority (Urgent)** by MAGIC (Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination), a division of our regional planning agency, MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council). Construction funding, up to 80%, would be from Federal and State sources, not from Acton. We must have substantially completed the 25% design phase to be approved for construction funding. We recognized that this is not a high priority Acton sidewalk, yet it would be desirable to take advantage of state and federal construction funding. Acton Engineering Department manpower spent on this project design would likely compete for time for other higher priority sidewalk projects. ►The sidewalk committee co-chairs will ask Corey York/engineering to estimate how much design time would be involved in this project, and its impact. ►We will discuss again at our April meeting, after some information gathering and a chance to become more educated on this process. We intend

to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectman. ► Kate will ask to put this issue/opportunity on the Board of Selectmen's agenda in May.

Taylor Road:

We reviewed which properties have sent, refused, or not sent Right of Entry to survey permissions. We used a map of Taylor Road, which had been color coded by Kate. Enough Right of Entry permissions have now been received to proceed with the surveying!

We discussed possible strategies for building a sidewalk on Taylor Road and part of Minot, given that several property owners advise that they will not give the town an easement for a sidewalk. Connectivity from Route 2 northward along Taylor road to the existing Minot sidewalk could be achieved by routing the path through the Conant school property, and the Minot sidewalk could be extended along Taylor road northward to Main St. / Route 27. Note that these are not town or engineering plans or designs, just speculative discussion.

The Acton Volunteer Fair is Tuesday 4/26 at 7:30 pm, and the Sidewalk committee has an opening for an associate member.

Town Meeting

There are several sidewalks easements on the warrant, which if approved will authorize the Board of Selectman to accept easements, if necessary, for the proposed sidewalks.

If there are questions about funding for sidewalks at the Town Meeting, we expect that our Selectman liaison Pam Harting-Barrat will be called upon to answer them, as funding for sidewalks is outside of our committee charter. ► Kate will communicate with Pam about this.

Also since we are concerned about constructing quality sidewalks, we wonder if there is leveling or any other equipment needed to construct new sidewalks without wide puddles, such as are in the recent Central Street sidewalk. ► Kate and Bettina will ask engineering.

20/20 Sidewalk Blog

Bettina recapped comments and discussion from the 20/20 Sidewalk Blog.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Evans

Open Meeting law requires that the following must be included in the minutes:

- ✓ Date, place, time and matters discussed.
- ✓ Summaries of discussions

- ✓ List of documents used
- ✓ Decisions made
- ✓ Actions taken
- ✓ Record of all votes (yeas, nays and abstentions).
- ✓ A list of all documents and other exhibits, such as photographs, recordings, maps and presentations used by the body at the open or executive session.

Future Meetings Planned: (All at 7pm at the Acton Memorial Library Conference Room) (all on the second Wednesday of the month)

April 13

May 11

June 8

July 13

August 10

September 14

October 12

November 9

December 14